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Priority Lake and Watershed Implementation Program



Priority Lake and Watershed Implementation Program



Under “Conservation 2000,” a long-term comprehensive natural resource bill, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) initiated several programs designed to protect, restore and enhance lakes and lake activities. One such program, the Priority Lake and Watershed Implementation Program (PLWIP), is a reimbursement grant program that began in July 1997. Through this program, the Illinois EPA works cooperatively with managers of publicly-owned inland lakes to implement lake protection, enhancement and restoration activities.

In general, priority lakes are defined by the Illinois EPA as unique, high quality aquatic resources, those which serve multiple purposes (recreation and public water supply) or lakes in need of protection or restoration.

PLWIP funding is targeted at lakes where:

- * The lake is publicly-owned,
- * Causes and sources of pollution are apparent,
- * Work sites are easily accessible and visible,
- * Project size is relatively small, and
- * Local management entities are in a position to quickly implement selected treatments.

Project Criteria:

- * Grants are funded up to 100 percent. However, a dollar or in-kind service match, or both, may receive additional consideration.
- * Funding is in the form of reimbursement with a maximum project allowance of \$40,000.
- * Maximum project duration is 18 months. Projects typically begin in August or September following grant approval.
- * Recipients shall:
 - > obtain all required permits,
 - > complete quarterly and final reports,
 - > distribute a press release before and after project implementation (i.e., newspaper article),
 - > display a project sign for a minimum of five years, and
 - > maintain the project area for a minimum of 10 years.

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Fundable Projects:

- * Shoreline erosion control (rip rap, vegetative, or bioengineering methods)
- * Aerator / destatifier installation
- * Near-lake dry dams
- * buffer strips
- * Spillway / dam repair
- * Best Management Practices in the immediate watershed area
- * Macrophyte harvesting to address public access or use
- * Others as appropriate

Application Process:

- * Applications are processed through the three Surface Water Section Assessment and Monitoring Unit (see PLWIP contact in your area).
- * Application deadline is March 1 every year.
- * Funding is awarded by September 1 each year.



Olney East Fork following shoreline stabilization

PLWIP CONTACT IN YOUR AREA

Northern Monitoring Unit

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water –
Surface Water Section
DesPlaines Monitoring and
Assessment Unit
9511 West Harrison
DesPlaines, Illinois 60016
847/294-4000

Central Monitoring Unit

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water –
Surface Water Section
Springfield Monitoring and
Assessment Unit
4500 South Sixth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
217/786-6893

Southern Monitoring Unit

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water –
Surface Water Section
Marion Monitoring and Assessment Unit
2309 West Main Street
Marion, Illinois 62959
618/993-7200

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Cover photos: Lake Kinkaid before (top) and after (bottom) shoreline work.